

50X1-HUM

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SECRET

50X1-HUM

The Economic Council has approved the sowing plan for 1950. The plan is to be made known to the farmers by 1 August 1949. Agreement has been reached with the State Planning Office except for a small difference. The disagreement amounted to 5,000 hectares of wheat only and 20,000 hectares of rye.

There remains the problem of working out prescribed hectare yields. In principle the Ministry of Agriculture is in agreement with the Ministry of Food and the State Planning Office, with a few exceptions. The Ministry would like to reduce the prescribed yield for wheat from 18.3 Quintals per hectare to 18.00, since the area sown is the same as in 1948. The Ministry would like to raise the prescribed yield of rye from 17.00 to 17.6, since there are almost 150,000 fewer hectares sown this year than in 1948.

The Ministry of Food is in agreement with the ~~reduction of the~~ prescribed yields, although it is felt that more information is desirable before a decision can be made. This reduction of the requirement for wheat will mean that about 25,000 tons less wheat will be available this year than last. It is to be hoped that this will be replaced by rye.

It should be pointed out that the plan for dairy cows shows the same number of cows in 1949 and 1950. This happened because it was seen that the 1949 plan could not and would not be fulfilled. Of course the average milk yield per cow is to increase and therefore the amount of milk output will go up.

Requirements of solid fodders have been taken as one half kilogram per day per milk cow. On this basis there will be a shortage of 60,000 carloads of solid fodders, grain, and meat meal in 1950. It will probably be

- 1 -

SECRET

SECRET

necessary to obtain fodders from somewhere else, since the states with which agreements have been signed will not make delivery. According to the Ministry of Foreign Trade, imports are planned at 44,000 carloads of solid fodders, including oil cake and grain, and 1,000 carloads of fish meal. These imports cannot be counted upon, since the Ministry of Foreign Trade does not yet know how much will be imported from Rumania and Bulgaria.

Since it is absolutely vital to continue with the plan for animal production, it will be necessary to arrange to purchase grain domestically. The Ministry of Agriculture must prepare everybody engaged in agriculture for this. It might be a good idea to reduce purchases of bread grains. We would like to suggest that the 1950 ~~the~~ quota of bread grains to be purchased be reduced to 103,000 carloads. In this manner 14,000 carloads would be ~~distributed~~ given to the farmers so that they could feed their animals. We have asked that purchases of barley be reduced from 42,000 carloads to 38,000 carloads, and the remaining 4,000 carloads ~~be replaced~~ by rye. This ~~which~~ would also help the situation, since the farmers could deliver rye and keep the barley. In order for the farmers to accept the animal production plan we must tell them that we will not set such high ^{grain} purchase quotas in 1950 as ~~this year~~ ^{in 1949}. The quota for bread grains is above the normal harvest level. ~~impossible~~ It should be pointed out that ~~this~~ it is easier to import wheat than corn.

The representative of the Ministry of Foreign Trade pointed out that it appeared possible to import about 64,000 tons of ~~some~~ fodder grains. It has been said that 75 percent of this quantity is to be imported during the first half of 1950.

Since the Ministry of Food has been planning on purchases of 42,000 carloads of grain, and the Ministry of Agriculture has been planning on 38,000 carloads, there are three ways in which this difference can be made up. One way is not to increase the alcohol content of beer. This will save not only 3,000 carloads of barley, but it will also release some hops for export. A second way is to ~~inexpensively~~ ^{about} purchase 4,000 carloads more grain in exchange for fodder barley, which the Ministry

SECRET

SECRET

of Foreign Trade can get. The third way is to continue to purchase 42,000 carloads of barley, and make it up by importing 4,000 carloads more of wheat and reducing purchase quotas of wheat from 103,000 ~~carloads~~ to 99,000 carloads. If we import fodder barley, which is cheap, instead of wheat, the quota of 103,000 carloads of bread grains will remain unchanged and the imported ~~carloads~~ barley will be given directly to the farmers for fodder. Since purchases are to be reduced, it would be a good idea to ~~make purchases~~ ^{4,000 carloads} over the quotas if, of course, some other fodder is given out instead.

The cattle situation is very bad. As of 1 January 1950 there are to be 1,328,984 cows in the Czech Provinces, and by 31 December, 1,410,000. As of 1 March 1949 there were ~~1,310,540~~ 1,310,540 cows, which means that we are short by 13,440 cows, which is ~~an~~ very significant. This is primarily the result of the drought of 1947. At present we are short of cattle up to 400 kilograms for ~~slaughter~~ slaughter, as well as of heifers which could add to the number of cows. One way out of this would be to forbid slaughtering of cows, although this would make it impossible to maintain the meat rations. The reduction in the meat ration is only for certain months in periods of emergency; ~~and~~ at present 1.5 million kilograms of meat are being saved ~~per month~~ per month. The Ministry of Food has tried to ~~make sure~~ ^{make sure} that all the meat that is ^{to be} imported ~~can~~ be delivered ^{half} during the first ^{half} of 1950. Not one of the countries which has agreed to export meat can make delivery before the fourth quarter, however. It also developed that Poland, which was ^{supposed} to export meat to us, was importing meat in order to maintain the agreement with England. Any other imports of meat would have to come from the dollar or sterling areas, and we have no foreign exchange to make such purchases. Only two-thirds of the imports which were included in trade agreements have been realized. It is also impossible to stop slaughtering of cows ~~since~~ since 60 percent of our needs are met by cows, and 80 percent by all beef cattle. ^{Imports} During the first quarter of 1949, ^{were to total} 20,000 tons of meat, ~~were to have been imported~~, and only 13,000 tons were actually

SECRET

SECRET

imported. The planned number of pigs was realized in the first quarter, but not the planned weight. The planned increase in the delivery of meat during the ~~first quarter~~ entire year totals 9,600,000 kilograms.

The representative of the Ministry of Food pointed out that ~~the~~ the density of cattle in the country is about 30 percent greater than would correspond to the density of the population. This could be straightened out by substituting pigs for beef cattle. But in order to do this a way must be found to fatten pigs quickly, and to supply ~~the~~ farmers with the necessary fodder.

The import situation for the second quarter of 1949 includes 3,000 tons each from the USSR and Yugoslavia, 1,500 tons each from Bulgaria, Hungary, and Rumania, and 1,000 tons from Poland.

We are short 22,000 pigs short of the number planned by the end of the year. It has been suggested that a survey be made to determine the number of pigs in various weight groups. If pigs above 40 kilograms were delivered by the end of May and those over 70 kilograms by the end of June, it is possible that 70,000 pigs could be obtained ~~this way~~. Then it might be possible to ~~be~~ in a program of delivering all young bulls over 150 kilograms to slaughter. ~~Since the number of sows is increasing much more rapidly than had been planned, it is possible that if fattening of young pigs can be speeded up it will pay off in the future.~~

It was pointed out that 2,500 carloads of grain for fattening centers by the Ministry of Food ~~were sent to~~ distilleries and starch plants. The import plan called for imports of 30,000 carloads of fodders, barley, potatoes, oil cake, and fish meal up to April, and only 10,179 carloads were actually imported. By 30 June 20,500 carloads will have been imported, and 13,250 carloads have been contracted for. We may be able to buy 5,620 carloads, ~~which~~ but this is quite doubtful since ~~it is a matter of~~ delivering textiles for corn. The possibility of importing another 5,000 carloads depends on the foreign exchange situation.

50X1-HUM

SECRET